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March 9, 2005

## V CORPS KICKS OFF CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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**GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA, Germany --** Taking part in a field exercise here didn't stop the staff of the V Corps Equal Opportunity Office from kicking off the 25th annual celebration of Women's History Month with a celebration at the post's Algier Chapel March 5.

The nationwide theme this year is "Women Change America." The theme was created to recognize and honor the way that women have shaped, transformed, and added to American culture, history and politics. Each year, women are selected to be honored for their contributions. This year, all 143 of the previous honorees will be recognized.



SPC KRISTIN C. CARLISLE  
Col. Michele M. Miller, V Corps Staff Judge Advocate, talks with guests at the corps' Women's History Month kickoff celebration in Grafenwoehr, Germany March 5.

V Corps Staff Judge Advocate Col. Michele M. Miller, the guest speaker for the event, spoke on the importance of celebrating the accomplishments of military women as well as historical figures.

She recognized the recent historical contributions of military women, including Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead. In 2004, Halstead became the first female graduate of West Point to be promoted to the rank of general officer.

"I have seen the Army make tremendous strides, really forcing the pace of change, outpacing the society at large, I think, and really building this irreversible momentum toward ensuring that women soldiers ... are afforded the same treatment and same opportunities that their male counterparts are," said Miller.

The movement to recognize the contributions women have made to history and American society has been around since the early 1900s. However it wasn't until the 1970s that the contributions of women throughout history were included in curriculum at many universities.

The National Women's History Project was founded in 1980, and called attention to the absence of women's historic contributions in texts and teaching in schools. The project aimed to educate children about women's achievements and illustrate the ways in which those successes have contributed to changing America.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan designated March as Women's History Month, capping off decades of work by various advocacy groups to designate a block of time for all Americans to reflect on the unique role that women have played throughout history.

"The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history by setting aside one month of the year to remember the

contributions of notable, and ordinary, women," said V Corps Equal Opportunity Sgt. Maj. Evy Lacy.

Special mention this year is made of Condoleezza Rice, first African-American female Secretary of State. For a complete listing of the 143 key historic figures recognized by the project, visit the National Women's History Project website at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

To read more about Women's History Month and other annual celebrations, visit the V Corps Equal Opportunity web site at <http://www.vcorps.army.mil/G1/EO/default.htm>.

